

SUFFOLK-NANSEMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 1255

Suffolk, Virginia 23434

Vol. 1 No. 4

July 1968

July Meeting - The July meeting of the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society will be held Tuesday, July 23, 1968 at 8:00 P. M., in the Municipal Court Room of the Municipal Building. Please plan to attend.

Books - The Publication Committee would like to have everyone bring in the money for the books which they sold.

Thanks - The Society wishes to thank Mr. Tick Boyce for the old books and newspapers which he gave us. We would also like to thank Miss Mary Cowling for the photostatic copies of old deeds and wills of Nansemond County which she gave us. We very much appreciate these gifts and hope that more people will share with us their records of this area.

The following card was given to the Society by Mr. W. Theodore Myrick -- The Funeral of Dr. James S. Browne will be preached at the M. E. Church on Sunday evening, May 3, 1874, at 3 o'clock. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

New Book - The Southampton Insurrection By William Sidney Drewry; Reprinted by the Johnson Publishing Company, Murfreesboro, N. C., 1968. This book was written in 1900 and is a very good account of the Nat Turner insurrection which started on August 21, 1831. The insurrection lasted two days and cost the lives of sixty people. A unit of the Nansemond Militia went to help put down the insurrection, however the fight was over by the time they got there.

Believe it or Not - Mary Roberts Rhinehart's grandfather, Mr. Thompson Gilleland lived in Nansemond County and is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetary.

From an Old Newspaper - The section in which Suffolk is located was first visited by Capt. John Smith on an exploring expedition in 1608. On his way up the Nansemond River he discovered the powerful tribe of Nansemond Indians, numbering 200 warriors, this being the largest tribe mentioned by him in this section. They were located near the



mouth of the Western Branch of the Nansemond River, and had something like 1000 acres of cleared land upon which they raised great quantities of Indian corn and other foods and every time the colonist at Jamestown were reduced to great want they would repair to this settlement and procure food. It might be said that the banks of the Nansemond were the grainery of the colony. He followed the river up to about where Lake Cohoon is now. There were Indian settlements in the vicinity of Suffolk, one on what is now Kingsboro Heights, and one on the Reeds Ferry Road where great quantities of Indian beads are still found near a large spring that was walled up with iron-mine rock to make the water more healthful for the Indians.

Edited by \*\*\*\*\* H. R. Gray, Jr.

Assisted by \*\*\* Marion J. Watson